

to be pursued by the male and the same antics were repeated. When launching out into the air the female gave a feeble whistle, but the descent was always silent.

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6, APOLLO STREET,
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XV.—DESCRIPTION OF AND NOTES ON THE FEMALE
CHESTNUT-MANTLED KOKLAS (*PUCRASIA M.*
CASTANEA) FROM CHITRAL

We are greatly indebted to Lt. J. A. S. Roper for the above-mentioned specimen received in August, 1930, from Kila Drosh and also for his interesting notes on this bird.

Description.—The female of *P. m. castanea* differs from the female of *P. m. macrolopha* in its general paler tone.

The whole head is greyish-brown with crescentic bars and centres of feather buff; the crest with broad buff centres. Supercilium well defined creamy buff, flecked with grey above the eye. The feathers of the upper back are not so dark as in *P. m. macrolopha*, and are broadly tipped with grey, paling towards the lower back and rump. The general colour of the tail is blackish-brown, not rufous buff as in *P. m. macrolopha*; the central tail feathers are greyish-brown.

The following are Lt. J. A. S. Roper's Notes on the species:

Distribution.—'Mainly in Kafiristan', writes Lt. J. A. S. Roper; 'but is found in the southern nullahs of Chitral which lie to the west of the Kunar river. It may spread across the river on the south-western portion of the Hindu Raj Range but this is doubtful. 3,000—7,000' in winter and 7,000—10,000' in summer.'

Nidification.—'Eggs are laid during May. The nesting site is usually placed on a ledge on some difficult piece of cliff towards the top of a nullah'.

Habits.—'It is usually found singly during winter on the sides of nullahs. It lies very close, but if put up flies strongly. The call, uttered usually in the mornings, is a *kuk-uruk-uruk* very much resembling the call of the jungle-fowl but with a hint of the black partridge. It is particularly noisy during March and April (presumably just previous to the mating season)'.

Fulton also records, (*J.B.N.H.S.*, Vol. xvi, p. 61) the striking resemblance of the call to that of the jungle-cock.

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XVI.—CASUALTIES AMONG THE EGGS AND YOUNG
OF SMALL BIRDS.

Every egg collector in India must, at one time or another, have been struck by the all-too-frequent disappearance of eggs and young from nests he has had under observation. The enormous extent of the damage which is in a great measure due to lizards, snakes, predatory birds and the common or garden 'Boy', and to a variety